

THE REACTION OF CH₂OO WITH HNO₃ INVESTIGATED WITH A STEP-SCAN FTIR SPECTROMETER

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Carbonyl oxides, which are known as Criegee intermediates, are important intermediates produced in ozonolysis of unsaturated hydrocarbons.^a Criegee intermediates react readily with other atmospheric species such as HNO₃, SO₂, (H₂O)₂ and HCOOH, leading to production of OH, aerosols and organic acids in the atmosphere. The reaction coefficient between CH₂OO and HNO₃ was reported to be $5.4 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ at 298 K.^b Theoretical calculations also predict a similar rate coefficient for CH₂OO + HNO₃, the reaction goes through a barrierless path to form nitrooxymethyl hydroperoxide (NMHP, NO₃CH₂OOH). Besides, due to large exothermicity ($-184.9 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$), internally excited NMHP might decompose further to CH₂ONO₃ and OH.^c

In this work, we utilized a step-scan FTIR coupled with a multipass White cell to record time-resolved IR absorption spectra of the reactants and products during the reaction of CH₂OO with HNO₃ in a flow system with total pressure about 10 Torr. CH₂OO was produced from the reaction of CH₂I + O₂; CH₂I was produced from photolysis of CH₂I₂ at 308 nm.^d The IR absorption spectra were recorded at instrumental resolution 0.3 cm^{-1} . Newly observed bands at 825, 967, 1053, 1294, 1348, 1424, 1686 and 3587 cm^{-1} can be assigned to NMHP. The observed wavenumbers and relative intensities agree with the anharmonic vibrational wavenumbers and IR intensities predicted with the B3LYP/aug-cc-pVTZ method. In addition, we also observed several bands with clear rotational structure, which can be assigned to the absorption of NO₂, H₂CO and HO₂. Observation of these species indicates that another decomposition route for excited NMHP might exist. Furthermore, absorption bands of unternally excited HNO₃ was also observed at low pressure, indicating that decomposition of pre-reaction complex can excite HNO₃. By probing the formation of NMHP and NO₂, the rate coefficient of this reaction was determined to be $(5.3 \pm 0.8) \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

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